

## Learning Together 8<sup>th</sup> After Pentecost Covid-19 – Love Grows

One of the things that happened earlier in this time of staying at home is that grocery stores ran out of yeast because so many people started baking their own bread all of the sudden instead of buying it, and yeast is the ingredient in bread that makes all the bubbles. Without yeast, bread would be more like flat crackers – solid and hard, not fluffy and soft.

Part of the problem was that many people bought way more yeast than they actually needed, not because they were greedy, but because they didn't know how yeast works. They didn't know that yeast is a living fungus, so all you have to do is mix one spoonful with water, feed it a little sugar, let it sit and it will grow big and bubbly all by itself! If you mix it with flour, it will keep growing and bubbling until you bake it. That one spoonful of yeast can raise several loaves of bread! You don't really need to buy a whole big bag of it.

Jesus said that that's the way it is when you live in God's love. He said it is like yeast. You only need a tiny bit of love to start, and it will keep growing and growing, making everything lighter and easier. I wonder if you have ever seen this happen? Maybe one person smiled and showed love to others, which made them feel so good, they started smiling too, and pretty soon everyone in the room was smiling and happy!

In the same way, Jesus said living in God's love, or the kingdom of heaven, is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in a field. Mustard is one of the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown, it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and make nests in its branches. From a tiny little seed or a tiny bit of yeast, a wonderful thing can grow! Bread for the hungry. Shelter for the homeless.

I wonder if you have seen other good things besides smiling, that people have done that has caused goodness to spread to others around them? I wonder what small ways you might share God's love that could grow into something bigger? I wonder what first steps you might take begin something good for you, your family, your community or beyond?

My challenge to you this week is to take the first small step in starting something you have been meaning to do. It could be planting seeds in a pot or garden to grow some fall vegetables. It could be finding someone who can show you do something you have always wanted to, like making bread, carving wood or playing an instrument. It could be taking the first steps for a change you want to make in your life, like looking at pictures of new hairstyles, or making a savings plan to buy something you have always wanted. Look for the first small steps you need to take to make something bigger happen, and then take one of those steps!

Please say this echo prayer with me

Dear God... thank you for fluffy bread... and seeds that grow....Help us to be brave...and take the first steps...to make our world better...and to share your love....We pray in Jesus' name...Amen



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